

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-20 are now pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants wish to thank the Office for acknowledging receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 22, 2003 and noting that the SB08 form did not have the correct information for reference A2. A separate, substitute SB/08 form is enclosed with the correct information for this reference and is submitted with this response. Applicants note that the submitted application was a complete copy and that the cover page did identify the correct serial number for the application. Thus, it is believed that only the corrected SB/08 form is necessary.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to depend upon claim 2. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 6-9, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,887,175 (Yamauchi et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,840,341 (Fujikawa). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 requires a vibration suppression apparatus for a hybrid vehicle that includes a main power source, a plurality of auxiliary power sources, a planetary gear mechanism, and “a vibration suppression control section that selects two power sources whose torque controls are enabled to be performed and superposes a vibration suppression control signal onto each of torque commands supplied to the selected two power sources to suppress two-degrees-of-freedom vibrations of the planetary gear mechanism.” Claims 19 and 20 include similar language.

The Office relies upon Yamuachi et al. to disclose the structure of a hybrid transmission and correctly notes that Yamuachi et al. fails to disclose suppressing vibration of a hybrid vehicle based on selected power sources. See Office Action at page 4. Fujikawa discloses a parallel hybrid vehicle in which vibration is suppressed. However, Fujikawa does not disclose or suggest “a vibration suppression control section that selects two power sources whose torque controls are enabled to be performed and superposes a vibration suppression control signal onto each of torque commands supplied to the selected two power sources to suppress two-degrees-of-freedom vibrations of the planetary gear mechanism.”

Fujikawa discloses a controlling section that includes an engine torque calculating section that determines an engine torque and a torsional vibration suppression torque calculating section that determines a torsional vibration suppression torque for suppressing torsional vibration produced by the drive shaft, with the torsional vibration suppression torque being output to the motor/generator. See U.S. Patent No. 6,840,341 at col. 1, lines 66-67 to col. 2, lines 1-29; col. 13, lines 8-44. Fujikawa does not disclose or suggest a vibration suppression signal that is output to the engine. Fujikawa discloses control over a single power source to suppress one-degree-of-freedom vibration. Therefore, Fujikawa does not disclose or suggest a vibration suppression control section that “superposes a vibration suppression control signal onto each of torque commands supplied to the selected two power sources to suppress two-degrees-of-freedom vibrations of the planetary gear mechanism.” In fact, Fujikawa does not add anything significant to the disclosure of JP-A 2000-217209, which is discussed on pages 1 and 2 of the present application.

In contrast to the advantages of the Applicants' invention, the combination of Yamauchi et al. and Fujikawa will not control rotational vibration in the planetary gear mechanism in addition to vibration of the output shaft. The problems associated with the prior art systems and the advantages achieved according to the present invention are discussed at pages 2-3 of the application as well as in connection with each embodiment, e.g., pages 23-30 for the first embodiment. For these reasons, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the identification of claims 2-3 and 10-18 as containing allowable subject matter, and claims 4 and 5 as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

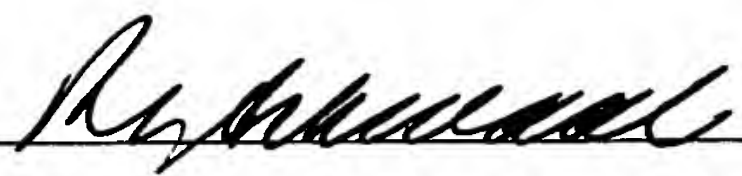
Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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